

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY OCT. 19, 1916

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October Meeting of Board of County Commissioners

Monday, October 2nd, 1916

The county commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 2nd, with Chairman Whitehurst presiding and Commissioners W. G. Welles, John Hagan, W. M. Whitten and D. L. Skipper present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, corrected and approved.

Notary bond of A. K. Albritton, with R. M. Stidham and W. U. Montgomery as sureties, was approved.

Hon. H. G. Murphy, county tax assessor, presented the 1916 tax roll, sworn to by himself, which was accepted in due form and ceremony, and it was certified by the circuit clerk that warrant for the collection of taxes on said roll had been duly recorded.

Dr. Y. E. Wright was appointed inspector of school children in the northern part of the county.

Mrs. Lula Dreggers was placed on the pauper list at \$5 per month.

Commissioner Whitten filed a petition signed by H. L. Delaney and others, asking that an election be called to vote upon the proposition to form a road bond district in the Hall City-Palmdale section of the county.

The following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, At the regular meeting of this board held during regular meeting of June, 1916, it was resolved by the said board to issue special drainage bonds for the special drainage district No. 10, in the sum of \$18,000; and,

Whereas, This was an error on the part of the said board as the amount of bonds called for and the amount that should have been issued was in the sum of \$23,135.22, and not in the sum of \$18,000, as the full amount of \$23,135.22 was and is necessary for the completion of the said work;

Therefore, resolved, by the board, that special DeSoto County Drainage Bonds for DeSoto Drainage District No. 10, be issued for the full amount of \$23,135.22, as provided by law.

Be it further resolved, That no member of the board of county commissioners who is a member of the special drainage board shall draw a salary, pay or per diem, or receive any remuneration whatsoever for any service he may or has rendered in connection with the said special drainage district No. 10.

Tuesday, October 3rd.

The board reconvened with Chairman Whitehurst presiding, and all commissioners present.

W. J. Strickland, of Waukegan, was placed on the pauper list at \$5 per month.

Upon motion of W. M. Whitten, the following resolution was adopted:

Whereas, The constitutionality of some of the provisions of chapter 6999 of the special acts of the legislature of Florida of 1915 has been called in question, and it is expected will soon be decided by litigation now pending;

It is therefore ordered, That in the matter of the petition of George W. Gatewood and others for drainage in the Belmont district, further proceedings be postponed until the regular meeting of this board in November.

Motion was made by Commissioner Welles, and seconded by Commissioner Whitten, that the petitions presented by citizens and free holders in the territory following, to-wit:

Begin at the southeast corner of township 38, south, of range 30 east, and run thence north along the range line to Lake Istapoga, run thence in a northwesterly direction along the shore of said lake to its intersection with the township line between township 35, range 30, and township 36, range 30, run thence west along the said township line to Peace river, run thence in a southeasterly direction along the said Peace river to its intersection with the township line between township 38, range 24, and township 39, range 24, run thence east to the point of beginning, all lying and being in the

VENIZELOS GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED BY ENTENTE ALLIES

Appearance of a Serious Turn in the Greek Situation—Vice-Admiral Hands King Constantine a New Note that is of an Extremely Grave Character — Athens is Patrolled by Blue Jackets—Artillery Activity in Macedonia — Heavy Fighting on the Somme in Galicia and on Other Battle Fronts.

The Greek situation apparently again has entered a critical phase. Following advices that the Entente powers had formally recognized the provisional government set up by former Premier Venizelos to the island of Crete, dispatches from Athens report a new note of "an extremely grave character" handed the Greek government by the entente fleet, causing King Constantine to return hurriedly to the capital.

More than one thousand blue-jackets from the entente warships have occupied the railroad stations at Athens and Piraeus and various public buildings and an urgent cabinet council is summoned.

Concerning the fighting in Greek Macedonia Paris reports the repulse by the Serbians of a Bulgarian counter-attack in the Cirna river region, southeast of Monastir and considerable artillery activity. Only patrol activity has developed in the Struma sector.

Heavy fighting continues on the Somme in France. French troops

again took the offensive north of the river and pushed their way further into the village of Sailly Saillies on the Peronne-Bapaume road, capturing another group of houses and repulsing a German counter-attack.

In Galicia, northeast of Halicz, the Austro-German forces have begun heavy attacks on the Russian lines. Petrograd makes this announcement, instancing the launching of assaults in the district north of Korytniza and in the vicinity of Bolshovitz, five miles north of Halicz after intensive fire.

The strong offensive opened by Teutonic troops near the junction of the borders of Rumania, Transylvania and Bukovina has so far been fruitless according to the Petrograd bulletin which records repulse by the Russians of all attacks.

Ocala Banner.—Porto Rico grapefruit has reached the New York market, and the best brands brought as much as \$8.12.

Thursday, October 5th.

The correction of the registration list was then completed, and the following names removed:

H. P. Porter, J. R. Sandlin, F. S. Strobhar, M. V. Williams, W. P. Downing, D. Massman, T. G. Wilkinson, W. C. Cassidy, William G. Crews, John Skipper, Frank Delrio, J. A. Hendry, P. H. Honoh, C. C. Heasley, J. B. Huffman, J. B. Kimball, T. A. Livingston, N. G. Langford, E. F. Ley, Sr., J. O'Neal, J. S. Padgett, Jim Porter, J. A. Rentz, A. H. Strickland, R. E. Smedley, G. S. Tippins, C. B. Ward, J. R. Craig, H. E. Anschutz, H. M. Bass, D. N. Bareo.

A petition was then filed asking that the name of Hon. Leslie Lewis be placed on the ballot in the coming election as a candidate for constable for the seventh justice district. The petition contained 33 signatures.

A petition containing 48 signatures was presented asking that the name of G. L. Crews be placed on the official ballot for the November election, as a candidate for justice of the peace of the Avon Park district.

A petition containing 35 signatures was presented asking that the name of A. W. Sargent be placed upon the official ballot at the November election as a candidate for justice of the peace for district No. 14.

A petition was presented, containing 589 signatures, asking that the names of J. Turner Butler, Martin Caraballo, J. P. Clarkson, Frank Harris, Milton H. Mabry, Sr., and Will H. Price be placed on the official ballot at the November election as candidates for the offices of president and electors.

A petition containing 614 signatures was presented asking that the name of Sidney J. Catts be placed on the official ballot for the November election, as a candidate for the office of governor of the state of Florida.

Warrants: General, F. & F. Road, Special Road & Bridge District No. 1, Special Road & Bridge District No. 5, Punta Gorda special Road and Bridge District, Charlotte Harbor Special Road & Bridge District, Arcadia Drainage District.

The board then recessed to meet again on Wednesday, 18th inst.

Okra is bringing good prices up north. Peppers and eggplant will soon be wanted in all markets at good prices. Several points have been shipping. Other places will soon have crops to move.—Fla. Growers News.

As a campaigner Mr. Hughes may not be a great success, but as a circumnavigating song of internal hate, he is a world-beater.

Suggestions About Setting Out Trees on the Streets

Another two weeks will see the last of our eleven miles of concrete walks finished and on the streets that were curbed and asphalted, a fine plat of ground offers an ideal place for planting. In the past an open ditch took the place that the trees should have had but now that this ground is filled in and leveled the proper time has arrived for the planting of Marian avenue and Taylor street. This planting should not be left to the disposition of each individual property owner on the street, or trees will be planted anywhere but on a line, some too close together or too far apart to serve the purpose of utility or beauty, while others serve neither purpose and are useful merely as firewood or for their timber.

In this grass plat between the walks and curb are two sewer lines and in planting trees these two lines of piping should be considered, for it doesn't pay you nor your city to have these pipes pried open by hungry roots hunting for food and drink. Not only can these roots pry open the pipes and crack them but they can fill them so full of roots in a year or two that nothing can pass through them. Every eucalyptus or rubber tree that is planted closer than 50 feet from a sewer line will do this in the course of a short time.

The only way that the planting of city streets can be carried on intelligently is to have this matter taken care of by a board of commissioners who have arbitrary power given them in selecting the trees to be planted, the planting of them, their care after they are planted and the removal of trees that do not fit into the scheme of utility or beauty. California has many of these boards and as a result their streets look like beautiful parkways, assuming a beauty they could never possess if left to the ignorant selection of property owners who make no study of the problems entailed in this planting.

Many Florida towns have begun this systematic planting of the streets by an appointed board who keep their office for 5 or more years unless their service be unsatisfactory. Fort Myers, our sister town, has such a board consisting of 3 members. They are men who have a knowledge of landscape planting and they are given the power to select the trees that shall be used on each street and they have the privilege of removing unsightly trees that don't fit into the scheme of beauty and they may do as they desire with the removed tree. The town council gives them \$1,000 per year to carry on this work, but at the present time they are not given any reimbursement for their work.

The coming year they hope to have another thousand dollars added for more extensive planting and as the years go by and the city grows, a greater amount can be set aside each year for this purpose.

There is no reason why Punta Gorda may not begin this same work in a modest way on the two streets that are ready for it: We can have three commissioners appointed to carry out this work and after deciding on the trees that are to be used, the property owners along these streets should be solicited to pay for the trees needed in front of their property and when these trees arrive they should be planted under the direction of the commissioners, who shall decide upon the place they shall occupy in the plat and such trees as do not belong in the plat should be removed. Unless this is done the whole scheme will resemble a crazy patchwork quilt, which went out of vogue nearly 20 years ago.

It may be known to some of our people that a tropical nursery has been in existence in our town for the last two years and among the specimens of tropical and semi-tropical plants that it contains are some extremely rare and beautiful. Indeed, so rare are they that you cannot find them in another place in the United States for sale, and in fact, even with the knowl-

edge that I have of plant nurseries all over the world I do not know of a place where you can buy a white Jacaranda and in this nursery are about 100 fine young plants just about ready to put in the open ground. The blue Jacaranda in my own garden is one of the most magnificent trees in creation; not only is it beautiful when in bloom but its fern-like foliage is quite unlike the habit of any other tree which makes it unique and striking even if it bore no flowers. The white Jacaranda has somewhat coarser leaves which will give a pleasing variation when planted with the blue one and when both are in flower in close proximity, the contrast serves to enhance the beauty of the blue.

This fact should always be remembered when planting blue flowers; be sure to have some clear, snowy white ones near the blue. Suppose you have blue pansies, or torenias or ageratum planted, in close proximity plant some pure white phlox or white pinks. All these annuals do well in Florida if the seeds are planted in the fall.

To go back to the contents of our local tropical nursery, in it may be found one of the rarest of palms Macrozamia spiralis which is not listed in any plant catalog in this country that I know of. Another rare and lovely plant is Latania Loddigesii, a fan palm with a tint of red in the edges of the leaves. The only catalog I have that quotes this palm asks from \$5. to \$10. for it. It won't take long for one of the small plants of this variety in our own nursery to reach the \$5. size. Another rare shrub of most beauty which this nursery contains is the Brownea. It is not listed in this country and so far as my knowledge goes it has only recently been introduced to Florida.

When J. H. Veitch, of the famous English nurseries, visited India some years back he wrote of the Brownea in these terms:

"Opposite is the Brownea avenue before referred to; the trees are not yet considered to be in full flower—it is too cold (though as I write the thermometer is 72 degrees in my cool room), but I saw many hundreds of heads of blooms of of Brownea coccinea chiefly and other species. They were, however, not large and evidently not fully developed. This avenue, or rather tunnel about a hundred yards long must be a magnificent sight in the flowering season. There is but little perceptible cessation of growth in these plants all the year round."

Again he says: "Opposite to this is a thick bush of Brownea grandiceps in flower, thirty-three feet in diameter. It is curious how much of its foliage is hidden, where no light can possibly reach it, and that many of its gorgeous flowers are in a similar position."

The temperatures in the winter in India go quite as low as they do here in southern Florida sometimes, so that it is reasonable to expect this grand shrub to grow in the State where no lower than 28 degrees is registered in winter, for short periods of time.

These are only a few of the rare things that this nursery contains. There are flats filled with palms of the most beautiful character which we may hope to some day see growing in Florida. Many of them are quite new and unknown to the trade in this country. If Punta Gorda takes advantage of the privileges which this nursery affords it, as Fort Myers has patronized her two home nurseries, we'll soon be attracting as much attention to our unexampled tropical vegetation as India and Ceylon present to the rest of the world. This town could and ought to use everything that this nursery contains, thereby keeping these rare plants right at home, for it's certain that when other towns learn of the uncommon plants it contains they'll be snapped up and carried off before we realize what we have lost.—MARIAN A. McADOW.